

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1161

To amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to exempt preparation for high-skill, high-demand jobs from participation and time limits under the temporary assistance for needy families program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 6, 2005

Ms. CANTWELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to exempt preparation for high-skill, high-demand jobs from participation and time limits under the temporary assistance for needy families program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ENCOURAGING THE PREPARATION OF TANF**
4 **RECIPIENTS FOR HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-DEMAND**
5 **JOBS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 407(c)(2)(D) of the Social
7 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 607(c)(2)(D)) is amended to read
8 as follows:

1 “(D) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF PER-
2 SONS WHO MAY BE TREATED AS ENGAGED IN
3 WORK BY REASON OF PARTICIPATION IN EDU-
4 CATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
6 vided in clause (ii), for purposes of para-
7 graphs (1)(B)(i) and (2)(B) of subsection
8 (b), not more than 30 percent of the num-
9 ber of individuals in all families in a State
10 who are treated as engaged in work for a
11 month may consist of individuals who
12 are—

13 “(I) determined to be engaged in
14 work for the month by reason of par-
15 ticipation in vocational educational
16 training (but only with respect to such
17 training that does not exceed 12
18 months with respect to any indi-
19 vidual); or

20 “(II) deemed to be engaged in
21 work for the month by reason of sub-
22 paragraph (C) of this paragraph.

23 “(ii) EXCEPTION FOR EDUCATION IN
24 PREPARATION FOR SECTOR-SPECIFIC,

HIGH-SKILL OCCUPATIONS TO MEET EMPLOYER DEMAND.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding clause (i) and subsection (d)(8), for purposes of determining monthly participation rates under paragraphs (1)(B)(i) and (2)(B) of subsection (b) with respect to an individual who is enrolled, in preparation for a sector-specific, high-skill occupation to meet employer demand (as defined in subclause (II)), in a postsecondary 2- or 4-year degree program or in vocational educational training—

“(aa) the State may count the number of hours per week that the individual attends such program or training for purposes of determining the number of hours for which a family is engaged in work for the month without regard to the 30 percent limitation under clause (i); and

“(bb) the individual shall be permitted to complete the re-

quirements of the degree program or vocational educational training within the normal time frame for full-time students seeking the particular degree or completing such vocational educational training.

“(II) SECTOR-SPECIFIC, HIGH-SKILL OCCUPATION TO MEET EMPLOYER DEMAND DEFINED.—In subclause (I), the term ‘sector-specific, high-demand, high-skill occupation to meet employer demand’ means an occupation—

“(aa) that has been identified by the State workforce investment board established under section 111 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2821) as within the needs of the State with regard to current and projected employment opportunities in specific industry sectors or that has been defined by the State agency administering the

State program funded under this part as within the needs of the State with regard to current and projected employment opportunities in specific industry sectors and is consistent with high demand jobs identified in the State plan in accordance with section 402(a)(1)(A)(vii);

“(bb) that requires occupational training; and

“(cc) that provides a wage of at least 75 percent of the State median hourly wage, as calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on the basis of the most recent Occupational Employment and Wage Survey.”.

(b) CONFORMING STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.—Section 402(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 602(a)(1)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(vii) The document shall describe any strategies and programs the State plans to use to address employment place-

1 ment, retention, and advancement for re-
2 cipients of assistance under the program,
3 including placement into high-demand jobs
4 and whether such jobs are identified using
5 labor market information.”.

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
7 this section take effect on October 1, 2005.

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